(b) whether an 11-member expert committee has been set up to clear the obstructions of Government's approach for widening the NREGS;

(c) whether NREGS would fulfil aim of providing minimum livelihood support to drought affected families; and

(d) if so, by what time a final decision will be taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI PRADEEP JAIN): (a) This Ministry has issued advisories to drought-affected States to meet employment demand in accordance with the provisions of the Act.

(b) There had been no obstructions to the Government's approach for widening the scope of NREGS. So no 11 member expert committee has been set up to clear obstructions.

(c) and (d) Aim of NREGA is to enhance the livelihood security of the rural households by providing at least 100 days of guaranteed wage employment in every financial year to every household for doing unskilled manual work on demand. Draught affected households can avail of employment provided under NREGA.

Merging of rural schemes

584. SHRI D. RAJA:

SHRI M. P. ACHUTHAN:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is considering a proposal to merge all rural schemes into one comprehensive district plan; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI PRADEEP JAIN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Question does not arise.

Modification in NREGS

585. SHRI PENUMALLI MADHU: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry has felt that there is an urgent need to remove the limit of 100 days limitation under National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme(NREGS) in view of the drought situation in the county;

(b) whether Government is committed to ensure to pay at least Rs.100 per day as minimum wages under NREGS; and

(c) if so, what efforts it made to achieve the above objectives?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI PRADEEP JAIN): (a) NREGA is demand based. The Act provides a legal guarantee for 100 days of wage

employment to every rural household in every financial year for doing unskilled manual work on demand. The primary objective of NREGA is to provide a supplementary wage employment to the rural households on demand. It should operate in a way that other forms of employment opportunities are also available to the people and promote an overall economic development of the country. For drought-affected areas, funds are provided from the CRF/NCCF by the Ministry of Home Affairs for employment generation and other measures. In view of this, it is desirable to continue for the present with the existing guarantee of 100 days of employment as provided under the Act.

(b) and (c) Hon'ble Finance Minister in his Budget Speech had announced to pay a real wage of Rs.100 per day under NREGS. The policy decided in this regard is as follows:

(i) Ministry may revise wage rate under Section 6(1) of States approaching Centre to revise their notified wage rate as per their suggestion based on their proposal.

(ii) However, this revision may be capped at Rs. 100 per day. Anything more than this will be paid by the States. However, States with wage rate above Rs. 100 per day, as notified on 1.1.2009, will continue to be reimbursed that wage rate though it is above Rs. 100 per day.

(iii) The date of effectiveness of revision of wage rate under Section 6(1) of NREGA may be from retrospective effect but should not be from a date prior to the date of actual disbursement of revised wages by the concerned State Government.

Implementation of NREGS

586. PROF. SAIF-UD-DIN SOZ: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether he is fully convinced with proper implementation of National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (NREGS);

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, how does it proposes to implement it successfully?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI PRADEEP JAIN): (a) to (c) National Rural Employment Guarantee Act was launched on 2nd February, 2006. The Act has been extended to all the rural areas in the country in a phased manner. Since inception, 13.52 crore households have been provided employment and 632.11 crore persondays generated by spending an amount of Rs.70499.72 crore. More than 50% works were undertaken in water conservation sector. The share of SC/ST was 61% and women 40% in total employment generation in 2006-07. Similarly, in 2007-08, the share of SC/ST was 56% and women 43%, in 2008-09, share of SC/ST was 54% and women 48% and in 2009-10 (October, 2009), share of SC/ST was 51% and women 51%.